

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for regulating a level of self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

enabling user ~~selection~~ selection, on a first instant messaging participant ~~system~~ system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about a first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode;

enabling ~~creation~~ creation, on the first instant messaging participant ~~system~~, of a multimedia message clip ~~on the first instant messaging participant system according to the selected communications mode;~~ clip, the multimedia message clip including both audio and video,

enabling ~~delivery of from the first instant messaging participant system~~ editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode, and

enabling presentation, to a second instant messaging participant ~~system;~~ system, of the edited message clip.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the message clip on a host system.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein enabling delivery presentation comprises enabling delivery of the edited message clip ~~from the host system~~ to the second instant messaging participant system.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;
creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system ~~according to the first available mode; system, the first multimedia message clip including both~~
audio and video;
based on selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia
message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and
delivering presenting the edited first message clip ~~from the first instant messaging~~
~~participant system~~ to the second instant messaging participant system.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
creating a second multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant ~~system according to the second available mode; system, the second multimedia message clip~~
including both audio and video;
based on selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second
multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
delivering presenting the edited second message clip ~~from the first instant messaging~~
~~participant system~~ to the second instant messaging participant system.

6. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for regulating a level of self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

rendering, on a first instant messaging participant system, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least a first instant messaging participant and a second instant messaging participant;

enabling user ~~selection~~ selection, on the first instant messaging participant ~~system~~ system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about the first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode, the user selection being enabled at least in part through display of the available modes at the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling ~~creation of a message clip~~ creation, on the first instant messaging participant ~~system according to the selected communications mode;~~ system, of a multimedia message clip that includes both audio and video, the multimedia message clip being created at least in part through user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode; and

enabling delivery presentation of the edited message clip ~~from the first instant messaging participant system~~ to a second instant messaging participant system in response to a user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 in which enabling user selection comprises enabling user selection of at least one of a text communications mode, an audio communications mode, a still photograph communications mode and a video communications mode.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 in which enabling creation of a multimedia message clip comprises enabling selection of a pre-stored message clip.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the pre-stored message clip is stored on a host system.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;
creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system ~~according to the first available mode;~~ system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
in response to selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and
delivering presenting the edited first message clip from the first instant messaging participant system to the second instant messaging participant system.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
creating a second message clip on the first instant messaging participant system ~~according to the second available mode;~~ system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
in response to selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
delivering presenting the edited second message clip from the first instant messaging participant system to the second instant messaging participant system.

12. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:
enabling user ~~selection~~ selection, on a first instant messaging participant system ~~system,~~
of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure

mode disclosing a different amount of information about a first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode;

~~enabling creation~~ creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system according to the selected communications mode; clip, the multimedia message clip including both audio and video,

~~enabling delivery of from the first instant messaging participant system~~ editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode, and

enabling presentation, to a second instant messaging participant system, of the edited message clip.

13. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 12 further comprising instructions for storing the message clip on a host system.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 13 wherein instructions for enabling delivery comprises instructions for enabling delivery of the message clip from the host system to the second instant messaging participant system.

15. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 12 further comprising instructions for:

selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;

creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system ~~according to the first available mode; system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;~~

based on selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and

~~delivering presenting the edited first message clip from the first instant messaging participant system~~ to the second instant messaging participant system.

16. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:

selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;

creating a second multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant ~~system according to the second available mode;~~ system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;

based on selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and

delivering presenting the edited second message clip from the first instant messaging participant system to the second instant messaging participant system.

17. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

rendering, on a first instant messaging participant system, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least a first instant messaging participant and a second instant messaging participant;

enabling user ~~selection~~ selection, on the first instant messaging participant ~~system~~ system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about the first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode, the user selection being enabled at least in part through display of the available modes at the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling ~~creation of a message clip~~ creation, on the first instant messaging participant ~~system according to the selected communications mode;~~ system, of a multimedia message clip that includes both audio and video, the multimedia message clip being created at least in part through user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface;

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode; and

enabling delivery presentation of the edited message clip from the first instant messaging participant system to a second instant messaging participant system in response to a user interaction with the instant messaging application user interface.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 17 in which instructions for enabling user selection comprises instructions for enabling user selection of at least one of a text communications mode, an audio communications mode, a still photograph communications mode and a video communications mode.

19. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 17 in which instructions for enabling creation of a multimedia message clip comprises instructions for enabling selection of a pre-stored message clip.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 19 wherein the message clip is stored on a host system.

21. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 17 further comprising instructions for:

selecting the first available self-disclosure mode;

creating a first multimedia message clip on the first instant messaging participant system according to the first available mode; system, the first multimedia message clip including both audio and video;

in response to selection of the first available self-disclosure mode, editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode; and

delivering presenting the edited first message clip from the first instant messaging participant system to the second instant messaging participant system.

22. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 21 further comprising instructions for:

- selecting the second available self-disclosure mode;
- creating a second message clip on the first instant messaging participant ~~system~~ according to the second available mode; system, the second multimedia message clip including both audio and video;
- in response to selection of the second available self-disclosure mode, editing the second multimedia message clip according to the second available self-disclosure mode; and
- delivering presenting the edited ~~second message clip from the first instant messaging participant system~~ to the second instant messaging participant system.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein:

- the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
- enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises deleting the video from the multimedia message clip; and
- enabling presentation of the edited message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the remaining audio of the message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

24. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein:

- the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
- enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises masking the video of the multimedia message clip; and
- enabling presentation of the edited message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the audio of the multimedia message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

25. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein:
the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises deleting the video from the first multimedia message clip; and
presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the remaining audio of the first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.

26. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein:
the first available self-disclosure mode comprises a picture plus audio mode;
editing the first multimedia message clip according to the first available self-disclosure mode comprises masking the video of the first multimedia message clip; and
presenting the edited first message clip to the second instant messaging participant system comprises concurrently presenting a still image and the audio of the first multimedia message clip to the second instant messaging participant system.